Trafficking in women and children

1126. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the recent report of the United States, State Department, published in The Hindustan Times dated 10th June, 2002, under the caption, "Trafficking in women and children is widespread in India;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on this issue; and

(c) what steps Government propose to stop the meance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is concerned with the phenomena of intracountry trafficking of women and children and has taken the following steps to prevent it:

(i) Drawn up a National Plan of Action (1998) to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children and constituted a Central Advisory Committee to monitor it.

(ii) Set up State Advisory Committees on Trafficking for the same purpose.

(iii) Issued guidelines to the States for effective implementation and review of the Plan of Action.

(iv) Initiated amendments in Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act to make it more stringent against traffickers.

(v) Signed SAARC Convention on combating trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in January, 2002.

(vi) Undertaken regional efforts, in aliiance with NGOs, to create greater awareness of the diamensions of trafficking and increase sensitivity tc victims among Government Departments, the police and judiciary, as well as within civil society at large.

(vii) Initiated a new scheme called SWADHAR for women in difficult situations including victims of trafficking. The Scheme provides for shelter, counselling, medical assistance, vocational training to rescued victims.

(viii) Formulated a model grant-in-aid scheme for assistance to NGOs to combat trafficking in source areas, traditional areas and destination areas through prevention, resuce and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on counselling, non-formal education and vocational training.

(ix) Notified officers of the level of Inspector and above in the CBI as Trafficking Police Officers for investigation of inter-state trafficking cases.

(x) Commissioned a National Survey to go into the magnitude of the problem and to estimate of the numbers involved and trafficking routes.

Many State Governments have also enacted legislation to prohibit Devdasi, Jogin and other form of sexual exploitation based on tradition.

The National Commission for Women is conducting active advocacy against trafficking in partnership with NGOs. It has conducted 20 workshops all over the country and has prepared a comprehensive Report on the subject.

Grants for Computer Education in Universities

1127. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the University Grants Commission to different Universities for pormoting computer education, during the last three years;

(b) whether UGC has received utilization reports from the universities in this regard; and

(c) if so, the number of persons trained by computer education during the above period?